

IN THE CLAIMS:

The status of the claims is provided:

1. (currently amended) A two-piece safety mechanism for ceiling-mounted fans, comprising:

a first cable having ~~a first fastener extending from~~ a first end and a first connector extending from a second end, said first **end integrally joined with one of a ceiling support and** ~~fastener for operable association with a first fastening mechanism for securing said first cable to~~ a fan; and

a second cable having a ~~second~~ fastener extending from a first end, said ~~second~~ fastener for operable association with a ~~second~~ fastening mechanism for securing said second cable to **the other of the** a ceiling support **and the fan**, and said second cable having a second connector extending from a second end, said second connector releaseably attachable to said first connector to form a continuous cable.

2. (original) The mechanism of claim 1, wherein said second connector comprises an elongate body having an opening configured for receiving said first connector.
3. (original) The mechanism of claim 2, wherein said elongate body has opposed first and second major surfaces, and said opening extends through said major surfaces.

4. (original) The mechanism of claim 3, wherein a side extends between said major surfaces, and said side has first and second cooperating slots extending into said opening and operably associated with said opening for receiving said first cable.
5. (original) The mechanism of claim 4, wherein said side includes a first end and a second end, said second cable extending from said first end and said slots are proximate said second end.
6. (original) The mechanism of claim 5, wherein said first slot extends from said opening on said first major surface through said side to a point intermediate to said second major surface.
7. (original) The mechanism of claim 6, wherein said first slot extends through said side to a position that is equidistant from said major surfaces.
8. (original) The mechanism of claim 6, wherein said second slot extends to a second point proximate said second end.
9. (original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said second slot is perpendicular to said first slot.
10. (original) The mechanism of claim 8, wherein said second slot is parallel to one of said major surfaces.

11. (original) The mechanism of claim 4, wherein ridges are disposed within said second slot for securing said first cable.
12. (original) The mechanism of claim 11, wherein said elongate body consists of zinc.
13. (original) The mechanism of claim 4, wherein said first connector is cylindrical and sized to be received in said opening.
14. (original) The mechanism of claim 13, wherein ridges are disposed within said second slot for securing said first cable.
15. (original) The mechanism of claim 14, wherein said first connector consists of zinc.
16. (canceled)
17. (canceled)
18. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 1, wherein said ~~second~~ fastener comprises an elongate body having an opening for operable association with the ~~second~~ fastening mechanism.

19. (original) The mechanism of claim 18, wherein said second cable extends from a first end of said elongate body, and said opening is proximate a second end of said elongate body.

20. (currently amended) A ceiling fan with a two-piece safety mechanism, comprising:

a mounting bracket for being secured to a ceiling support;

a ceiling fan for being secured to said mounting bracket, said ceiling fan comprising a motor, a motor housing having a plurality of radially extending fan blades operably associated with the motor, a downrod having a hanger ball for hanging said ceiling fan, and electrical wires associated with the motor;

a first cable having a first fastener extending from a first end and a first connector extending from a second end, said first fastener secured to said hanger ball using an operably associated ~~with a first fastening mechanism for securing said first cable to said fan;~~ and

a second cable having a second fastener extending from a first end, said second fastener operably associated with a second fastening mechanism for securing said second cable to the ceiling support, and said second cable having a second connector extending from a second end, said second connector releaseably attachable to said first connector to form a continuous cable for retaining said fan in close proximity to the ceiling support if said mounting bracket fails.

21. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 20, wherein said second connector comprises an elongate body having an opening configured for receiving said first connector.
22. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 21, wherein said elongate body has opposing first and second major surfaces, and said opening extends through said major surfaces.
23. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 22, wherein a side extends between said major surfaces, and said side has first and second cooperating slots extending into said opening and operably associated with said opening for receiving said first cable.
24. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 23, wherein said side includes a first end and a second end, said second cable extending from said first end and said slots are proximate said second end.
25. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 24, wherein said first slot extends from said opening on said first major surface through said side to a point intermediate to said second major surface.
26. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 25, wherein said first slot extends through said side to a position that is equidistant from said major surfaces.

27. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 26, wherein said second slot extends to a second point proximate said second end.
28. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 27, wherein said second slot is perpendicular to said first slot.
29. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 27, wherein said second slot is parallel to one of said major surfaces.
30. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 23, wherein ridges are disposed within said second slot for securing said first cable so that vibrations from operation of said fan will not detach said first and second connectors.
31. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 30, wherein said elongate body consists of zinc.
32. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 23, wherein said first connector is cylindrical and sized to be received in said opening.
33. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 32, wherein ridges are disposed within said second slot for securing said first cable.

34. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 33, wherein said first connector consists of zinc.
35. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 20, wherein said first fastener comprises an elongate body having an opening operably associated with said first fastening mechanism.
36. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 35, wherein said first fastening mechanism is selected from the group consisting of screws, bolts, and pins.
37. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 20, wherein said second fastener comprises an elongate body having an opening operably associated with said second fastening mechanism.
38. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 37, wherein said second fastening mechanism is selected from the group consisting of screws, bolts, and pins.
39. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 38, wherein said second fastener is secured to said mounting bracket by one of a plurality of mounting fasteners, said mounting fasteners operably associated with said mounting bracket for securing said mounting bracket to the ceiling support.

40. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 38, wherein said second fastener is secured to an electrical box by one of a plurality of electrical box screws, said electrical box screws operably associated with said electrical box for securing said electrical box to the ceiling support.

41. (currently amended) A method of securing a ceiling fan to an electrical box a ~~ceiling support~~, comprising the steps of:

securing a first end of a first cable to a ceiling fan;

securing a first end of a second cable to an electrical box a ~~ceiling support~~;

securing a mounting bracket to the electrical box ~~ceiling support~~;

hanging the ceiling fan from the mounting bracket; and

connecting a second end of the first cable to a second end of the second cable so that the first and second cables form a continuous cable.

42. (original) The method of claim 41, including the steps of:

providing a first cable having a first fastener extending from the first end and a first connector extending from the second end;

providing a second cable having a second fastener extending from the first end and a second connector extending from the second end, wherein the first connector is releaseably attachable to the second connector; and

attaching the first and the second connectors to form the continuous cable.

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) The method of claim 42, including the further steps of:

securing the mounting bracket to the electrical box ~~ceiling support~~ with a plurality of fasteners; and

securing the second fastener to the electrical box ~~ceiling support~~ using one of the plurality of fasteners, wherein one of the plurality of fasteners passes through a corresponding portion of the mounting bracket and into the electrical box ~~ceiling support~~.

45. (currently amended) A ceiling fan with a two-piece safety mechanism, comprising:

a mounting bracket secured to a ceiling support;

a downrod having a hanger ball secured to said mounting bracket, said hanger ball in operable association with said mounting bracket;

a fan secured to said downrod on an end opposing said hanger ball;

a first cable having ~~a first fastener extending from~~ a first end and a first connector extending from a second end, said first ~~fastener~~ end integrally joined to secured to said hanger ball ~~downrod with a first fastening mechanism~~; and

a second cable having a second fastener extending from a first end, said second fastener secured to the ceiling support with a ~~second~~ fastening mechanism, and said second cable having a second connector extending from a second end, said second connector releaseably attached to said first connector forming a

continuous cable for retaining said fan in close proximity to the ceiling support if said mounting bracket fails.

46. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 45, wherein said second connector comprises an elongate body having an opening and first and second cooperating slots extending into said opening, said opening and said slots configured for releaseably securing said first connector.

47. (original) The ceiling fan of claim 46, wherein said first connector is cylindrical and sized to be received in said opening.

48. (currently amended) A safety mechanism for ceiling-mounted fans, comprising:
a cable having a fastener extending from a first end and a connector extending from a second end, said fastener for operable association with a first fastening mechanism for securing said cable to one of a fan and a ceiling support; and
a-shaped an L-shaped body having a first end and a second end, said first end having a first opening for operable association with a second fastening mechanism for securing said shaped body to the other one of the fan and the ceiling support, and said second end having a second opening configured for receiving said connector for releasably securing said connector therein.

49. (currently amended) The mechanism of claim 48, wherein said L-shaped ~~shaped~~ body has first and second cooperating slots proximate said second end and operably associated with said second opening for receiving said cable.
50. (original) The mechanism of claim 48, wherein said first opening is perpendicular to said second opening.
51. (original) The mechanism of claim 49, wherein said second slot is parallel to said second opening.
52. (original) The mechanism of claim 51, wherein ridges are disposed within said second slot for securing said cable.
53. (original) A hanger ball for hanging a ceiling fan from a support, comprising:
a major portion for operable association with a mounting bracket of a ceiling fan; and
a first cable extending from said major portion, said first cable having a connector extending from a first end, and a second end integral with said major portion, said connector for being operably associated with a second cable having a fastener, said connector and said fastener releaseably attachable to form a continuous cable.

54. (original) The hanger ball of claim 53, further comprising a threaded channel extending through said major portion for receiving a threaded downrod of the ceiling fan.
55. (original) A hanger ball for hanging a ceiling fan from a support, comprising:
a major portion for operable association with a mounting bracket of a ceiling fan; and
a first cable extending from said major portion, said first cable having a connector extending from a first end, and a fastener extending from said second end, said fastener secured to said major portion, said connector for being operably associated with a second cable having a fastener, said connector and said fastener releaseably attachable to form a continuous cable.
56. (original) The hanger ball of claim 55, wherein said major portion includes an opening operably associated with a fastening mechanism for securing said fastener to said major portion.
57. (original) An electrical box for securing to a support, comprising:
a wall defining an inner chamber for connecting electrical wires therein;
and
a first cable extending from said wall, said first cable having a fastener extending from a first end, and a second end integral with said wall, said fastener

for being operably associated with a second cable having a connector, said fastener and said connector releaseably attachable to form a continuous cable.